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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

KEIJI NAKAYAMA, ET AL. :

EXAMINER: ALLEN, A. J.

SERIAL NO: 10/044,956 :

FILED: JANUARY 15, 2002 :

GROUP ART UNIT: 2855

FOR: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR MEASURING AND
EVALUATING MATERIAL
STRENGTH BY DETECTING
CHARGED PARTICLES

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AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action mailed October 17, 2002, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-10 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A material strength measuring and evaluating method for measuring and evaluating at least one of a peel strength ~~and/or~~ and a fragility breaking strength of a fragile thin film, said method ~~being carried out by detecting charged particles~~ and comprising the steps of:

pressing an indenter into a test object and measuring an indentation load ~~as well as~~ and an indentation depth, while at the same time detecting charged particles emitted from a peel starting point or a breakage starting point;